

1 HOUSE BILL NO. 716

2 INTRODUCED BY M. JOPEK

3
4 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOCAL FOODS GRANT PROGRAM TO HELP
5 MONTANA SCHOOLS DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH LOCAL FARMERS AND PRODUCERS; REQUIRING
6 THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR MONTANA
7 FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS TO INCREASE THEIR MARKETS; PROVIDING FOR GRANTS TO FOOD
8 PROCESSING ENTITIES AND LOCAL FOOD COOPERATIVES THAT PROCESS LOCALLY GROWN FARM
9 PRODUCTS FOR SCHOOL AND INSTITUTIONAL MARKETS AND THAT RENT EQUIPMENT TO LOCAL
10 FARMERS AND FOOD PRODUCERS IN ORDER TO PROCESS PRODUCTS FOR SALE; REQUIRING A
11 REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE; PROVIDING A SET-ASIDE OF FUNDS FROM THE MONTANA GROWTH
12 THROUGH AGRICULTURE ACT TO FUND PROGRAM GRANTS; AMENDING SECTION 90-9-202, MCA; AND
13 PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE."

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15 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

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17 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Local foods grant program.** (1) There is a local foods grant program to
18 be administered by the council. The purpose of the program is to help Montana schools develop relationships
19 with local farmers and producers.

20 (2) A school, school district, consortium of schools, or consortium of school districts may apply to the
21 council for a grant award to:

22 (a) purchase equipment, resources, and materials that will help to increase the use of local foods in the
23 school food service program;

24 (b) purchase items, including local farm products, that will help teachers to use hands-on educational
25 techniques to teach children about nutrition and to make connections between farming and the foods that
26 students consume; and

27 (c) provide professional development and technical assistance to help teachers educate students about
28 nutrition and farm-to-school connections.

29 (3) In awarding grants pursuant to this section, the council shall consult with the superintendent of public
30 instruction to develop specific criteria and application forms for the grants.

1 (4) A grant awarded pursuant to this section may not exceed \$15,000. A total of not more than 50 grants
2 may be awarded.

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4 **NEW SECTION. Section 2. Grants to food processing entities to assist local food producers --**
5 **educational opportunities for farm to market.** (1) The director of the department and the council shall work
6 with existing programs and organizations to develop and implement educational opportunities for farmers and
7 food producers to increase their markets through:

- 8 (a) sales to schools and state government agencies;
9 (b) participation in the federal food commodities program; and
10 (c) sales to regulated child care programs.

11 (2) (a) The council may award grants to food processing entities and local food cooperatives that:
12 (i) process locally grown farm products for school and institutional markets, in order to help farmers and
13 food producers increase the size and stability of markets and process; or

14 (ii) rent equipment to local farmers and food producers in order to process products for sale.

15 (b) The council shall develop rules for administering a process for accepting applications and awarding
16 grants to qualified applicants pursuant to this section.

17
18 **NEW SECTION. Section 3. Report to legislature.** On or before December 1, 2009, the department
19 shall make recommendations to the house agriculture committee, the senate committee on agriculture, livestock,
20 and irrigation, the house committee on human services, and the senate committee on public health, welfare, and
21 safety regarding:

22 (1) legislative strategies to encourage the use of locally grown foods in Montana schools, regulated child
23 care programs, and state agencies, taking into consideration the benefit to the economy of rural farms and the
24 state compared to the impact of purchasing agricultural products grown or produced in Montana when available
25 at more than the cost of similar products produced outside the state, after consulting farmers, food service
26 personnel, state agency personnel involved in purchasing agricultural products, and representatives of
27 organizations interested in creating strategies to increase the use of locally grown foods in Montana schools and
28 state agencies;

29 (2) the effectiveness of the U.S. department of agriculture food commodities distribution program,
30 including ways to improve integration of the program with efforts to include more fresh foods and Montana-grown

1 foods and methods to increase the delivery of foods in a timely manner, after consulting with people who work
2 in or may potentially use the food commodities distribution program;

3 (3) the effectiveness of the local foods grant program established in [section 1]; and

4 (4) the development and effectiveness of school nutrition policies.

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6 **Section 4.** Section 90-9-202, MCA, is amended to read:

7 **"90-9-202. Powers and duties of council.** The council shall:

8 (1) establish policies and priorities to enhance the future development of agriculture in Montana[,
9 including the Indian reservations in the state];

10 (2) make investments or loans in agricultural development projects that have a short- or long-term ability
11 to stimulate agriculture development and diversification in [rural, urban, and tribal settings in] Montana, including
12 but not limited to:

13 (a) seed capital projects for development and commercialization of new products and processes;

14 (b) foreign and domestic market development activities;

15 (c) applied technological research;

16 (d) agricultural development projects; and

17 (e) agricultural technology assistance and transfer; ~~and~~

18 (3) accept grants or receive devises of money or property for use in making the investments or loans
19 authorized by this chapter; and

20 (4) make local foods grants and grants to food processing entities and local food cooperatives for the
21 purposes of [sections 1 and 2]. (Bracketed language terminates June 30, 2009--secs. 3, 4, Ch. 460, L. 2005.)"

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23 NEW SECTION. **Section 5. Set-aside of growth through agriculture funds.** The Montana agriculture
24 development council shall set aside \$1 million for the biennium beginning July 1, 2007, from money appropriated
25 to the department for the Montana Growth Through Agriculture Act in Title 90, chapter 9, to be used for the
26 purposes of [sections 1 and 2] as follows:

27 (1) \$750,000 for local food grants to help Montana schools develop relationships with local farmers and
28 producers pursuant to [section 1]; and

29 (2) \$250,000 for grants to food processing entities and local food cooperatives pursuant to [section 2].

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1 NEW SECTION. **Section 6. Codification instruction.** [Sections 1 and 2] are intended to be codified
2 as an integral part of Title 90, chapter 9, part 3, and the provisions of Title 90, chapter 9, part 3, apply to [sections
3 1 and 2].

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5 NEW SECTION. **Section 7. Effective date.** [This act] is effective July 1, 2007.

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